

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

[0031] The resolution module 205 uses the prioritization mechanisms 206 to identify the prevailing rule 207 that will be applied for the dispatch of the data structure 201. The dispatching mechanism 208 uses the prevailing rule 207 to then deterministically dispatch at least a modified version of the data structure 201' to the corresponding one [[of]] or more methods 209 that are to be executed. In this example, the data structure is not dispatched to a single method, but is dispatched for processing by methods 209A through 209D.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

[0040] Yet another example is a unique identifier comparison mechanism that uses a unique identifier for the condition. The unique identifier may be sorted into a list that represents ordering of priority where conditions having higher unique identifiers on the list take priority over conditions having lower unique identifiers on the list. An example of a unique identifier comparison mechanism may include alphabetically ordering the expression of the rule. In another example, each [[rules]] rule is assigned a unique identifier as an additional field. The unique identifier comparison mechanism represents an example of a prioritization mechanism that guarantees a prevailing rule.

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

[0041] Accordingly, the principles of the present invention allow for deterministic rule-based dispatch. Furthermore, the list of dispatch rules 203 may be maintained independently of the actual dispatch code (e.g., the comparison module [[203]] 202, the resolution module 205, the prioritization mechanism 207, and the dispatching mechanism 208). For example, the list of rules may be represented using XPATH statements, or in any other structured manner. Changing the rules merely involves adding or deleting rules from the list, or modifying rules in the list.